

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING BRANCH**

**INTRODUCTION**

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In the course of project development it is not unusual to find that a project is routed through an area once home to facilities such as: service stations, automotive repair shops, automotive bone yards, waste segregation sites, waste piles, landfills, treatment plants and outfalls, oil, plastics, chemical, electrical, electronic, adhesives manufacturing plants, photo, printing, paint, plating, battery shops, metals and paper processing plants, mining, agriculture, medical supply, facilities, funeral homes, dry cleaning and other cleaning operations, older buildings with structural asbestos or other contaminants, etc. Such area should be treated as suspected hazardous waste (HW) sites and must be thoroughly investigated to determine conclusively that hazardous waste is not present before any right-of-way is purchased. In addition, should an underground storage tank (UST) system for the purpose of gasoline, diesel, heating oil, or other chemicals exist within the existing or proposed right-of-way, removal of the tanks must be properly addressed prior to purchasing the right-of-way.

Upon receipt of the site investigation packages from the District Planning and Programming Engineer, the Environmental Testing Branch performs the UST/HW site screening for contamination; which may include site inspections, drilling, and analyzing groundwater and/or soil samples, as necessary.

A report is prepared with screening results with the extent of any possible contamination or existence of UST systems within the Department's, proposed and/or existing right-of-way and appropriate recommendations are made to the Project Manager.

The levels of contamination are measured to determine if levels are found to be above release notification requirements as established by Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Georgia's Environmental Protection Division (EPD). If contamination levels are above release notification requirements, the Environmental Testing Branch issues letters to EPD and the property/tank owner informing them of the Department's findings.

Consultant reports for UST/HW site investigation are reviewed by this office to determine if the consultants' findings and recommendations are acceptable in accordance with established guidelines. A review of the consultant's report is prepared, with the Department's recommendations, and submitted to the Project Manager.

All courses of action will follow EPA and Georgia's EPD guidelines.